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Going tactile over tech





In a world of plastic aplenty, it might surprise you that people are instead choosing to work with their hands to once again create with wood, fabric and leather.

In recent years I've noticed a welcome spike in handmade holiday markets, but was also shocked to find a lot of the people behind the stalls were in their twenties, and trying to make more or less a full-time living at their craft.

A few years ago, a colleague decided to turn from photography to furniture making — something that shocked me at the time — but he has been expanding his workshop and product line ever since.

Over the next four weeks I'll give you a sampling of people that are moving away from traditional jobs and instead dedicating themselves to their passions. Stories, photos and videos will bring you into their workshops and into their lives.

What makes someone choose to work with leather in an era when belts can be bought online from half the world away? How do you learn to see a table in a pile of apple wood that you've got from a former orchard? What makes someone choose the tactile over the tech?

This week we take a look inside the home workshop of Katherine Cherry, someone who can find beauty in a chair that someone else would throw to the curb. She expertly refinishes and reupholsters old furniture for clients that gives them something they can't find in a store.

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Your essential daily news Here comes the Bide: VP visits Trudeau in Ottawa next week

DOWNIE **DELIVERS** SECRET PATH **TOUR PLAYS**

HALIFAX Legendary Canadian musician Gord Downie brought his Secret Path show to a soldout crowd at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium on Tuesday night. The show chronicles the life of Chanie Wenjack, a 12-year-old Anishinaabe boy who died after running away from a residential school in 1966. The show sold out 20 minutes after tickets went on sale last week. JEFF HARPER/METRO



Two families, one legacy

THE SECRET PATH

Chanie's sister joins Downies to share tragic indigenous tale



Adina Bresge For Metro | Halifax

Members of two historic Canadian families flanked either side of the podium in Halifax — one, the brother of a music legend battling terminal brain cancer: the other, the sister of a 12-year-old Anishinaabe boy who died after running away from a residential school.

The Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack Fund has woven these two legacies together, co-founder Mike Downie told reporters at the Dalhousie Arts Centre hours before his enigmatic brother, Gord, would take the stage in one of his first solo performances since The Tragically Hip's farewell tour.

The "Secret Path" concert is inspired by the life of Chanie Wenjack — mispronounced as "Charlie" by his teachers at the Cecilia Jeffrey Indian Residential School - who died in

We were taken with Chanie's

simple story of trying to get home.

Mike Downie said he and Gord, in film and song respectively, have dedicated their lives

1966 while trying to walk back home from the facility some 650 kilometres away.

"I think we were taken with Chanie's simple story of trying to get home," Mike Downie said. "It never let Gord go. It never let me go. Every step along the way, and it was not a very direct path, we were just more committed to finding a way to get the story told."

The brothers' project which consists of a 10-song album, a graphic novel and an animated film - has been in the works for four years, said Mike Downie, after reading a Maclean's story from 1967, The Lonely Death of Charlie Wenjack.

tragedy."

Pearl Wenjack is flanked by local chief Morley Googoo, left, and Mike Downie during an announcement for the The Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack Fund Legacy Project. JEFF HARPER/METRO

to telling stories about Canada, and yet, neither knew anything about this "enormous national

"I'm here to tell you all that

since that day he died." For 50 years, Pearl Wenjack has been trying to raise national awareness about Chanie's death. She considered calling Oprah Winfrey, but said after three attempts, she gave up because she "isn't very good at computers."

When Mike Downie called to introduce himself. Pearl Wenjack said her initial response was "So?"

In the years since, Pearl Wenjack said she and the Downies have become "family," bonded by shared tragedy. Knowing that Gord Downie was sick, she said they prayed together.

"It brings two different kinds of people together," she said. "Somebody that's nationally known, and somebody that just lives in the bush."

Restaurants urged to get involved in marking Chanie's legacy

The Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack Fund's Legacy Room Project will be a testament to the efforts of two families - one white, one Ojibwe - towards reconciliation between Canada and its aboriginal population, Mike Downie said Tuesday.

Assembly of First Nations

Regional Chief Morley Googoo said the campaign calls on businesses in Canada, especially in the hospitality industry, to dedicate rooms in restaurants in honour of the Tragically Hip frontman and Chanie Wenjack, a 12-year-old boy who died in 1999 while fleeing from a residential

school in northwestern Ontario.

By signing on, Googoo said, restaurants also commit to an annual donation to the fund that aims to recognize and heal the wounds Canada's aboriginal peoples have suffered, particularly in the residential school system.

"The campaign will be an opportunity for Canada corporate to propel the legacy of a special relationship between Gord and Chanie," Googoo told reporters. "In these rooms, those stories need to be told."

Googoo said many of Canada's corporations don't know "what

their part is" in the path toward truth and reconciliations. He said the purpose of the initiative is to create a space where those discussions can begin.

it's not a 'story', that it did

happen," said Pearl Wenjack,

wearing a T-shirt with Chanie's

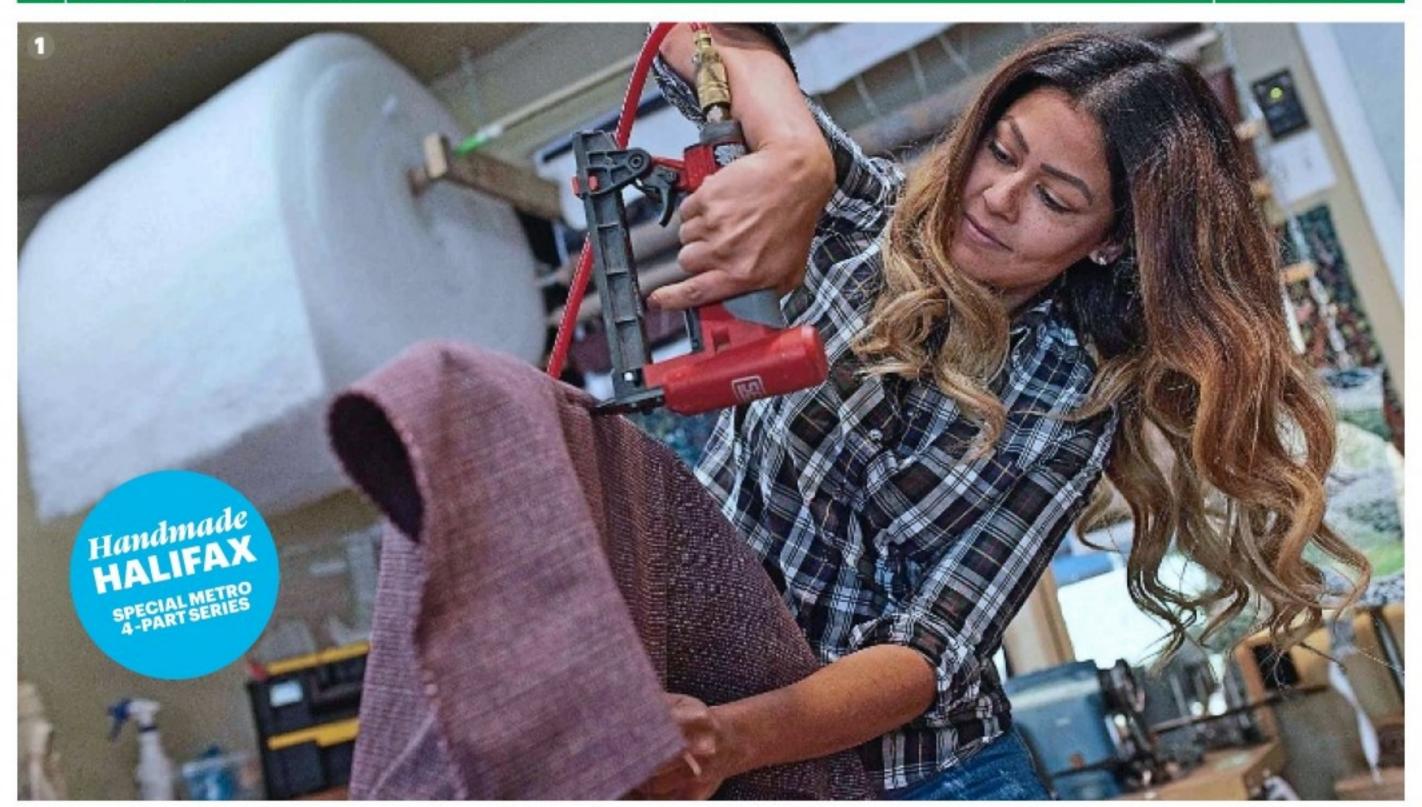
picture. "I had wanted to do

something about my brother

Gord Downie's brother, Mike, said he thinks the project has enormous potential, and will be a "physical reminder" of

the legendary singer's commitment to Chanie's story, which inspired his solo performance in Halifax Tuesday.

The Barrington Street Steakhouse is the first partner in the project, Googoo said, which aims to sign up 100 restaurants. ADINA BRESGE/FOR METRO



Your couch just got a new life





- After apprenticing for more than 2 years Katherine Cherry struck out on her own, opening Boss Designs in April.
- Boss Designs works in furniture design and upholstery.
- "I have this need to make things, and make them beautiful. I love furniture and I always have loved furniture," says Cherry. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Katherine Cherry of Boss Designs talks about learning the upholstery trade, and making it her own



Harper Metro | Halifax

A chair in the trash is junk for most, but furniture designer and upholstery aficionado Katherine Cherry can see a treasure.

"I have this need to make things, and make them beautiful. I love furniture and I always have loved furniture," said Cherry recently in her Fall River workshop, surrounded by various pieces in different stages of production.

"Our parents and grandparents...when they bought a sofa it would last longer than their car. You'd have it for the next 30 or 80 years. These days it's just not that."

Furniture design, and especially upholstery, are not easy to learn in these modern

"It's extremely difficult to learn as they do not offer it at any of the major educational institutions in the area," said Cherry.

"You have to learn it from someone who is willing to teach it to you. Historically it has been passed down through family."

After apprenticing for more than two years. Cherry decided to strike out on her own this past April and start to do client work under her own brand, Boss Designs.

One of the highlights for Cherry was working on revitalizing an original loveseat from Finn Juhl, a famous Danish architect and furniture designer, for a client.

Working for yourself can also bring it's own rewards.

"It's very fulfilling and rewarding to see your hard work appreciated and know

times of Walmart end tables. that you've done every aspect of that work," said Cherry.

> "I'm doing it for my daughter...to not have to rely on someone else and to be able to rely on yourself, that's what's kind of driven me."

THINK LOCAL

Boost an artist

Here are ways to support local artisans.

Update an heirloom

Have a family heirloom that needs some TLC? You can reach Katherine Cherry of Boss Designs via her website bossfurniture.ca

2 Nominate someone

Have another artisan to suggest? We are looking for reader suggestions for Week 4 of this series. Send your suggestions to jeff.harper@metronews.ca.

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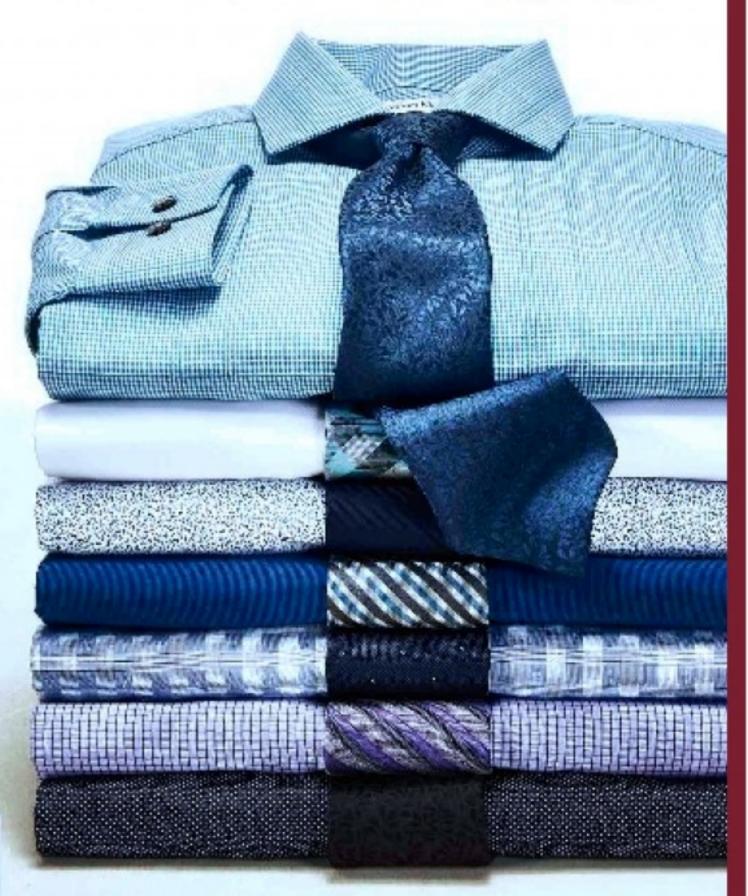
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Police threaten drunk drivers with Nickelback

A Prince Edward Island police department is threatening to impose the Nickelback treatment on anyone who drinks and drives.

The Kensington Police Service shared a social media post over the weekend promising to force any drunk drivers it arrests to listen to the Alberta band while in the back seat of a cruiser.

"We figure if you are foolish enough to get behind the wheel after drinking, then a little Chad Kroeger and the boys is the perfect gift for you," Const. Robb Hartlen says on Facebook, alongside a photo of the band's breakthrough album, Silver Side Up, in what appears to be cassette form.

"So please, let's not ruin a perfectly good unopened copy of Nickelback. You don't drink and drive and we won't make you listen to it."

The post created two kinds of controversy among com-

menters: Those offended the police service was making a joke about drunk driving, and Nickelback fans annoyed the band was the butt of the joke.

The force said the jokes were being made in service of something it takes very seriously, and also insisted: "We actually like them too ... We are just having a little bit of fun."

The band has been a huge commercial success, with multiple Juno wins, but is also gleefully maligned by some detractors.

It has been the subject of spiteful petitions and protests; a Chicago mayor was once pressured into clarifying he wasn't a fan.

Kroeger told The Canadian Press in a 2014 interview that the critics have actually done the band a favour by heightening the public discussion about the group.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Premier Stephen McNeil was featured in a video expressing his disappointment that talks with the Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU) had been unsuccessful. YOUTUBE SCREENSHOT

McNeil video added early

TEACHER STRIKE

Premier's office says they wanted to be prepared if for any scenario



Zane Woodford Metro | Halifax

The premier's office admitted on Tuesday that it recorded and uploaded a video about talks with the teachers union breaking down before talks had actually broken down.

In a statement from spokesperson David Jackson, the premier's office confirmed the video - which features Premier Stephen McNeil expressing his disappointment that talks between the Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU) and the province had been unsuccessful - was recorded and uploaded to YouTube on Friday afternoon.

"There had been an indication Friday afternoon that talks could break down. We wanted to be prepared for any scenario, and without knowing for certain whether the Premier would be available later Friday and into Saturday,

Jamie Baillie

the decision was made to record the video in case it was needed," the statement reads.

On Monday, the Progressive Conservatives were the first to point out that the video - with daylight in the background - was uploaded Friday afternoon.

A YouTube data viewer puts the video's upload time at just before 4 p.m.

Talks didn't break off till about 5:30 p.m., according to a union spokesperson. Jackson said the video wasn't made live till Saturday afternoon.

"How can the Premier claim he was bargaining in good faith when he had already recorded and uploaded that video?," PC leader Jamie Baillie asked in a news release Tuesday afternoon.

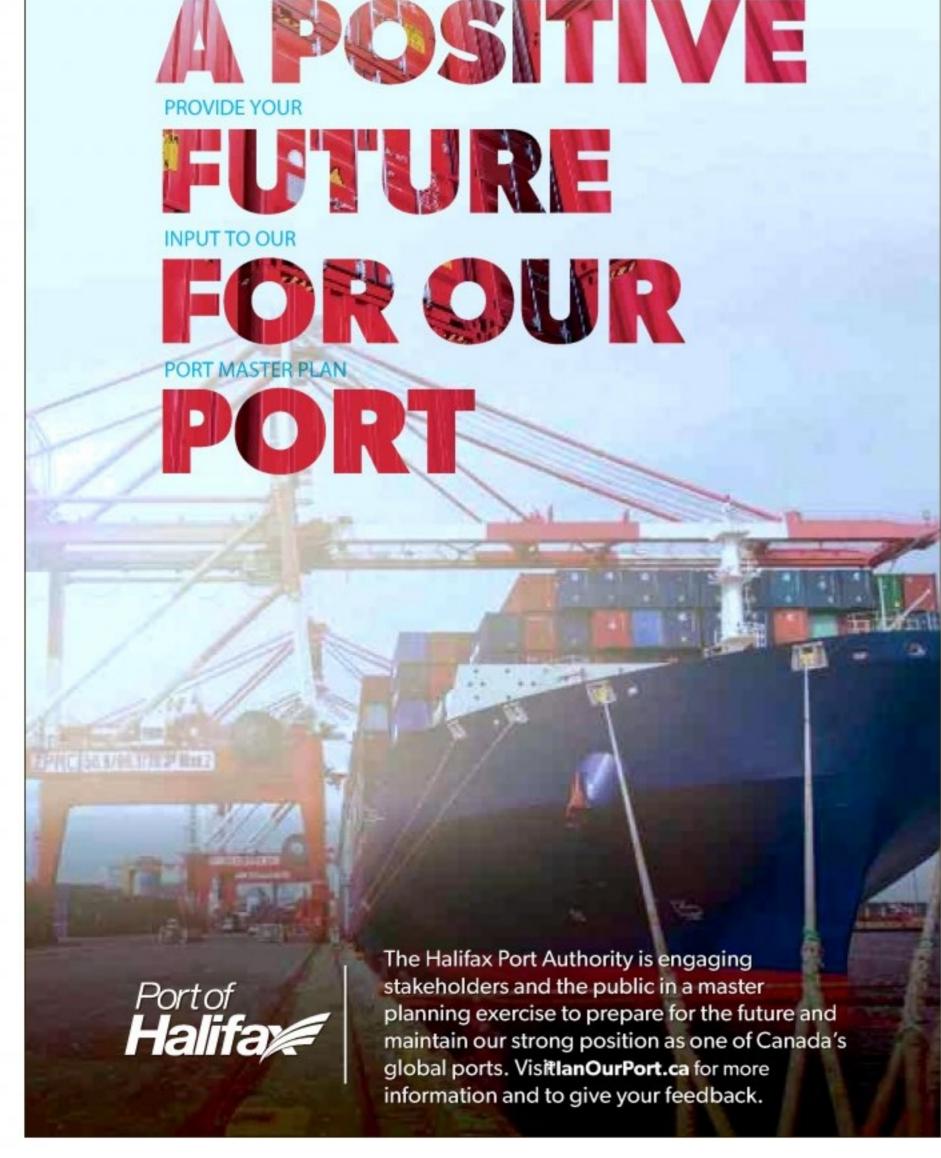
Baillie is now calling on the premier to apologize.

"This proves this whole thing is nothing but a communications exercise for Premier McNeil and his highpriced communications team, rather than an actual contract negotiation," he said. "They don't care about classrooms, they care about playing politics."

NSTU announced on Monday that work-to-rule job action would begin on Dec. 5



How can the Premier claim he was bargaining in good faith when he had already recorded and uploaded that video?





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Trans resident says bank visit 'deeply uncomfortable'

GENDER IDENTITY

Questions were medical and personal: Allegation

The co-chair of the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project is speaking out after what they describe as a "deeply discriminatory experience" at Scotiabank.

Aine Morse is a non-binary trans person who was trying to update their name at the Halifax Fairview Scotiabank last Friday.

Morse was shocked to be asked "deeply uncomfortable and really antagonistic" questions, including if they'd had "the surgery."

"It went from me changing my name to needing to address all these other questions based on assumptions (from) the two clerks," Morse said in an interview Tuesday.

"Perhaps I was just the entertainment at the end of the day on Friday. It was very strange and very antagonistic to basically be asked about my genitals in a public forum without any privacy in the middle of the

Morse had legally changed their name last week and was updating identification for a number of different services to reflect the change.

Morse, who doesn't identify with male or female, chose not to legally change their gender marker due to a lack of nonbinary options available on government identification.

"I had a change in gender assumed on my behalf (at the bank) without asking me if that was something that had



Aine Morse outside the Chebucto Connections office in Spryfield on Tuesday. ZANE WOODFORD/

Our ideas of gender don't always capture everyone in them, and I think that we need to be making space for all of us. Aine Morse

even happened," Morse said.

"And that's a complicated answer where most people aren't aware of the existence of non-binary people, much less what it takes to actually accommodate us."

Morse described the bank experience as "one of the most violent" of their life since they

began transitioning.

"I think government needs to listen and respond to the needs of trans folks more generally, but specifically nonbinary folks too who don't have access to the right gender marker on their identification Morse said. currently," Morse said.

"The Nova Scotia NDP has aren't happening."

put forward legislation to allow for that, and I'm really hoping that the government decides to support that legislation."

Morse believes once government takes the lead, corporations and businesses will have a standard to follow.

"My hope is that we build corporations' capacity to understand trans people and to support trans clients through training and providing those continued opportunities,"

"But right now those things

It's not superappropriate to ask any customer that comes into the bank 'What are your genitals?' which is basically what happened to me.

Aine Morse

Morse said they'd lodged a complaint with Scotiabank, and the possibility of exploring it as a human rights issue was still in their back pocket.

"The hope is to create a conversation to get our systems moving in a more inclusive direction and get folks understanding that these questions have never been appropriate, they're still not appropriate, and you need to be mindful of that when dealing with the public," they said.

In an email, Scotiabank spokesperson Rick Roth said the bank makes every effort to educate employees on inclusive language and behaviour and to ensure employees deliver "an inclusive experience" to all customers.

"We appreciate the customer raising this concern with us, and we sincerely apologize for the experience. We have committed to thoroughly review this matter and take the appropriate action," Roth wrote in part.

"We have reached out to the customer to invite further discussions with the bank on our current employee educational programs and how we can further improve them."

Trade laws

hinge on beer case

A spirited battle over the right to bring beer across provincial borders could be headed to the Supreme Court of Canada, in a case that could have broad national trade implications.

"The decision really does have the potential to affect the very fabric of the commercial structure of Canada," said Arnold Schwisberg, lawyer for a New Brunswick man acquitted of illegally importing 14 cases of beer and three bottles of liquor from a Quebec border town in 2012.

In April, provincial court Judge Ronald LeBlanc tossed out all charges against Gerard Comeau, citing the Constitution when he stated that Canada's founders would never have intended that laws should blatantly block the free flow of goods within the new country.

On Tuesday, New Brunswick's prosecution service said in a brief statement it will seek leave to appeal the ruling.

"The implications of this decision are far greater than simply addressing the purchase of alcohol," the statement read. "It concerns issues of inter-provincial trade with significant consequences."

Schwisberg said he was pleased the matter may be heard in the Supreme Court and elevate a matter of national significance.

"It's going to get an important issue heard by the top court in a very transparent way," he said from his office in Markham, Ont.

Schwisberg said it could have the power to shift a host of laws across the country that govern everything from selling chickens to how professionals work across provincial lines.

He said a top court ruling in Comeau's favour could effectively throw out Canada's marketing board system, allowing for the free trade of goods while bringing food prices down as a result. THE CANADIAN PRESS





A Halifax Transit bus heads down Barrington Street. Consultations on the city's Integrated Mobility Plan are set to begin today, which could have lasting impacts for Halifax residents. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Forging forward on integrated mobility

Better transit, safer streets and bike lanes on the table

HALIFAX MATTERS Tristan Cleveland

Strangely, you have probably never heard of the Integrated Mobility Plan, yet it is perhaps our city's greatest opportunity.

Consultations for the plan start Wednesday and we can anticipate big things: bus lanes, rail, bike lanes, walkable streets — it could all be on the table. The plan is enormously important, and here's why.

Name your favourite city. Almost without exception, you will name a place with great transit, like Paris, Montreal, Portland, London or Vancouver.

Why is that? Because great transit does more than move people; it kicks off a virtuous cycle that creates fantastic

Take Bayers Road and Robie Street. A bus lane down these streets is badly

needed: it would open up all of the downtown, universities and hospitals to Fairview, Clayton Park, Bedford and beyond.

A bus lane would also encourage developers to build nearby, and it just so happens that all along Bayers and Robie, there are massive opportunities for develop-

When more stores and homes are located on a bus lane, it makes sense to run more buses there, which improves service, which encourages more development.

These businesses and homes will produce more tax revenue, because transit lends them higher value, but they cost less to service, because they don't need new roads.

This dynamic saves residents money too. When transit is good enough to replace a car (or a second car), families save \$9,500 a year on



We're getting to be a big city, Halifax. It's time to say yes to big city transit.

UPCOMING MOBILITY CONSULTATIONS

- Wednesday, Nov. 30 at Dartmouth Sportsplex — Nantucket Room, 110 Wyse Rd., Dartmouth (12 p.m. and 6 p.m.)
- Thursday, Dec. 1 at Italian-Canadian Cultural Centre -Auditorium, 2629 Agricola St., Halifax (12 p.m. and 6 p.m.)
- Wednesday, Dec. 7 at **Bedford-Hammonds Plains** Community Centre -

Arts & Crafts Room, 202 Innovation Dr., Bedford (12 p.m. and 6 p.m.)

Thursday, Dec. 8 at Captain William Spry Centre - 16 Sussex St., Halifax. (12 p.m. session at Meeting Room #2, 6 p.m. session in the Community Multipurpose Room)

Check out halifax.ca/ integratedmobility for more details.

This virtuous cycle pushes down the cost of running

average, according to CAA.

a city while increasing revenue. It improves health by encouraging walking. And it creates vibrant streets, because it mixes transit users, customers and residents together, creating that buzz cities thrive on.

Would it be possible to establish that kind of success without proper transit? Disneyland, for one, has done it. But by relying so much on cars, Disneyland has a sea of parking nearly the size of the theme park itself. Times Square has just as many daily visitors, so if it relied on cars instead of transit, the centre of New York would be a 170 acre parking lot.

The virtuous cycle of smart transit investment is no nice frill: we simply will not become a great city without it. Using transit to encourage development, and development to support transit, is the formula that underlays that feeling you get when you know you're in a wonderful city.

Let's choose to create that feeling here. We're getting to be a big city, Halifax. It's time to say yes to big city transit.

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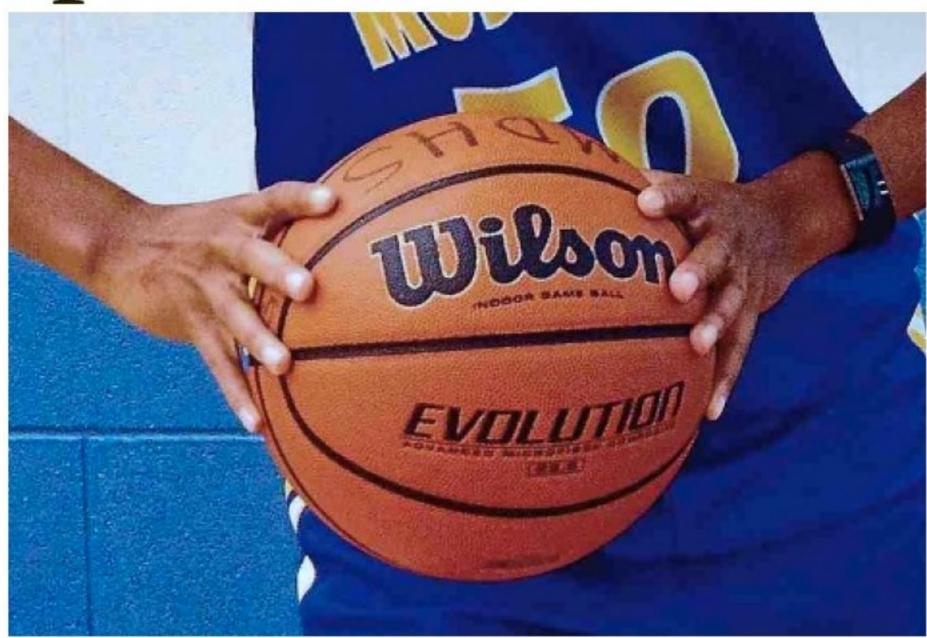
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Sports halted with teacher job action



Basketball and other sports are sidelined in work-to-rule job action. METRO FILE

Work-to-rule will suspend games, events and practice



Adina Bresge For Metro | Halifax

Student athletes may have to hang up their uniforms as the Nova Scotia Teachers Union prepares for a work-to-rule job action Monday that would bring school sports to a screeching halt, says the executive director of the Nova Scotia School Athletic Federation.

Stephen Gallant says all school games, practices and events in Nova Scotia will be suspended after the province's 9,300 unionized public school teachers plan to do the bare minimum of work required by their contract meaning no extra-curricular activities.

"It's unfortunate, but we don't have a choice," Gallant said. "It stops school sports."

NSSAF is not like a private sports league, Gallant explained, the organization's mission is to

educate through sports, so without teachers and faculty, it isn't insured to let kids participate

Gallant predicted that "a significant number of students" could be affected by the midseason interruption, including 30 hockey teams, 80 basketball teams and dozens of wrestlers.

Post-winter break, Gallant said, several other sports seasons could be impacted as well, and the NSSAF is working out how to proceed depending on the duration of the job action.

"When it comes back, need to be ready to go," said Gallant. "We have different scenarios we would need to work out for all of our sports. Do you just chop off games or do you make them up?"

Gallant said he's received a few concerned phone calls from parents, but there's not much the NSSAF can do but wait and see how the job action plays out.

"Everyone is concerned and would like to see a resolution to the situation," he said.

Contract talks between the union and the provincial government fell apart Friday, a month after teachers voted in favour of a strike, putting them in legal strike position as of Dec. 3 and the job action will start Dec. 5.







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Ginormous lobster tips scales at 23 lbs.

A lobster taller than a toddler has been caught in the Bay of Fundy.

Catherine MacDonald, coowner of the Alma Lobster Shop in southern New Brunswick, bought the 23-pound crustacean this week from a fisherman in St. Martins, N.B.

"It's beautiful and healthy," said MacDonald in a phone interview Tuesday. "For a lobster to be 23 pounds and to be that large, there was nothing else that was going to be a predator - except man."

The lobster, who has been given the name King Louie, is very healthy, measures about four feet in length and could be up to 100 years old, said MacDonald.

"This is a big, big lobster," said MacDonald. "My daughter put it next to a three pound lobster, which is large and most people have never seen a three pound lobster, and it was as big as his claw."

MacDonald, who has worked in the fishing industry her entire life, said he's not the biggest she's ever seen — there's a 26-pounder that her dad mounted on the wall of the shop.

A 14-pound lobster recently made headlines in Bermuda, and last summer a 20-pounder was reportedly caught off the coast of Maine.

King Louie is not the only unusual lobster to come through the shop in Alma, N.B.



Elizabeth MacDonald of the Alma Lobster Shop holds up the huge lobster. CP HANDOUT

MacDonald said they keep many curious creatures in a tank for visitors to view, including an orange lobster, a blue lobster, and a lobster with barnacles on its back in the shape of a heart. THE CANADIAN PRESS

TELEVISION

Eastlink rolls out channel-swap plan

Cable provider Eastlink rolled out a unique plan Tuesday that allows customers more flexibility in selecting what TV channels they want to watch.

The Halifax-based company, which serves markets across Canada, says people will be able to customize their packages by swapping out channels

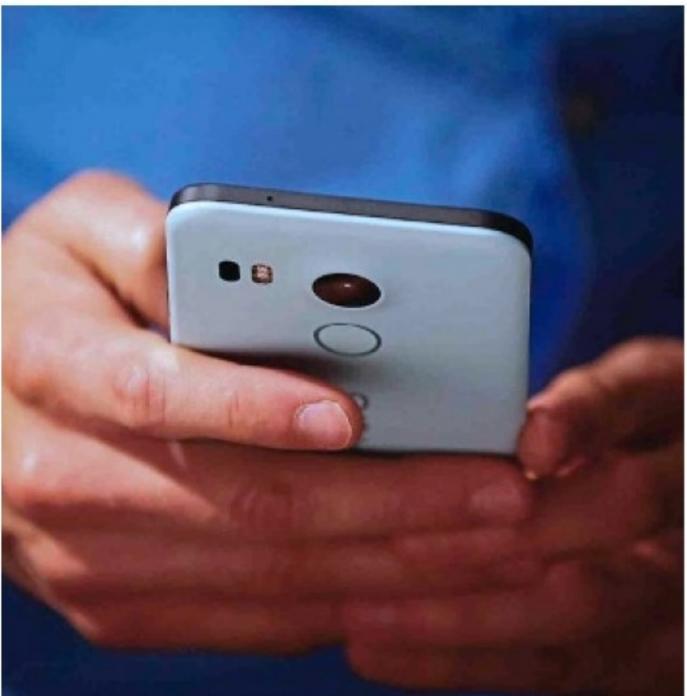
they don't want from about 150 channels in the TV Channel Exchange.

Eastlink CEO Lee Bragg said customers won't be able to switch out channels on a nightly basis and must have an existing package of channels over and above the socalled skinny basic, which

includes about 30 channels.

The new system will be for more "fulsome" TV customers who already have 50 or more channels in their Essentials Plus or Maestro bundle. he said.

"Our goal is to pay attention to what customers want." THE CANADIAN PRESS



A 16-year-old Newfoundland boy has been sentenced to 18 months probation after sharing naked photos of a 15-year-old female. JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

Teen gets probation for sharing nudes

COURT

Boy sentenced to 18 months for possession of child porn

A 16-year-old Newfoundland boy who circulated nude pictures of a 15-year-old female schoolmate has been sentenced to 18 months' probation for possession of child pornography.

Judge Wayne Gorman says the boy asked for the photos, and then showed them to some students before sending them electronically to others.

"As can be expected, the pictures were circulated at the school, and this has made school life for (the girl) very

difficult," said Gorman.

The judge said the girl's victim impact statement "elegantly described" how it changed her life.

"I feel like I am never going to get my old life back again," the girl wrote. "I feel ashamed of my body and I try to hide it the best way possible."

People were treating her differently since the photos were shared, she wrote.

"I feel like I am not as close as I was before with my friends or family especially my mom and dad. I feel like there are pieces missing between us and I miss those pieces."

Gorman said the boy would have known what high school life would be like for her once he circulated the pictures.

Under the sentence released

Friday in Corner Brook provincial court, the teen must also perform 25 hours of community service and submit a DNA sample.

Gorman accepted a joint submission from the Crown and defence, saying he would not jail the boy because there was insufficient evidence to establish that a violent offence had been committed.

"In the circumstances of this case, the evidence presented is insufficient to establish that a 'violent offence' as defined in the Youth Criminal Justice Act was committed," said Gorman. "Thus I do not have the authority to impose a custodial sentence."

The judge said he had little leeway to reject the joint sentencing recommendation, saying the Newfoundland and Labrador Court of Appeal has made its view on such submissions clear.

He also noted the teen apologized for his actions, and has no prior convictions. THE CANADIAN PRESS



I feel like I am never going to get my old life back again. I feel ashamed of my body.

Victim impact statement



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Couples now need not adopt own kids

Same-sex parents in Ontario and others who use assisted reproduction to conceive will no longer have to adopt their own children.

The All Families Are Equal Act ensures that couples such as those who use a donor or a surrogate are legally recognized as parents, updating laws for the first time since 1978.

Under the old rules, samesex parents often had to go to court to get that legal recognition.

The law, which will be in force as of Jan. 1, passed the Ontario legislature unanimously Tuesday, though nearly half of the Progressive Conservative caucus was absent for the vote.

Some of the absent members represent the more socially conservative views in the caucus, including a 19-year-old who was elected in a byelection Nov. 17 but has delayed his swearing-in until at least Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MILITARY

Women-recruiting plan is floundering

Canada's military is moving women to the top of the recruiting line as part of its effort to bring more gender balance to its uniformed ranks.

The announcement came Tuesday after the auditor general concluded that the military's aspiration of having women make up 25 per cent of its personnel within the next decade appeared to be just that - a dream with no strategy to actually accomplish the goal.

Gen. Jonathan Vance, the chief of defence, announced earlier this year that the Canadian Armed Forces would boost the number of women in the ranks by one per cent a year until the goal of 25 per cent had been met.

But a report by the auditor general of Canada found that the military lacked a strategy to actually achieve that target.

"While some efforts were made to attract women, no special recruiting program was developed for that purpose," the report said.

But on Tuesday, the general in charge of military personnel said there was a strategy ready to recruit more women.

"To increase the representa-

AG REPORT

Some key findings:

- The Canada Revenue Agency takes too long to respond to objections to its income tax decisions.
- Transport Canada has no way of assessing the potential security improvements resulting from a \$133-million baggage screening technology initiative.
- The CRA also fails to adequately analyze or review decisions on objections and appeals, nor does it adequately share results throughout the agency.

tion of women in the (Canadian Armed Forces), women applicants who meet the required entry standards will go to the head of the queue," said Lt.-Gen. Christine Whitecross, commander of Military Personnel Command. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Alberta Premier Rachel Notley meet on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Tuesday. Justin Tang/The Canadian Press

Oil projects ready to flow

Trudeau gives OK to pipelines amid backdrop of outrage

The Liberal government has approved two major pipeline projects, including a controversial plan to transport Alberta bitumen to British Columbia's coast, setting up a showdown between Ottawa and local political and First Nations leaders.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced late Tuesday afternoon that his government has approved the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline expansion and Enbridge's Line 3 pipeline replacement.

The \$6.8-billion Trans Mountain project would add 980 kilometres of new pipeline between Edmonton and Burnaby to open up a route to the Pacific for the Alberta oil sands.

The project has faced strong opposition in British Columbia, including from First Nations communities, Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson, and local Liberal MPs.

"To them, and to all Canadians, I want to say this: If I thought this project was unsafe for the B.C. coast, I would reject it," said Trudeau at a press conference Tuesday. "This is a decision based on rigorous debate, on science, and on evidence. We have not been, and will not be. swayed by political arguments ... we have made this decision because we are convinced it is

safe for B.C., and it is the right one for Canada."

During the announcement, Trudeau repeatedly pointed to recent steps the Liberals have announced to protect the environment - including committing to wean Canada off coal by 2030 and a five-year, \$1.5-billion coastal protection

But critics have pointed to the tension between approving new oil pipelines while committing to the Paris Agreement on emission reductions.

"Today's announcement may as well have said that Canada is pulling out of the Paris climate agreement," said Aurore Fauret, a campaign director with environmental advocacy group 350.org, in a statement. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Pilot 'will be forever missed'

A pilot killed when his CF-18 fighter jet crashed during a training exercise near the Alberta-Saskatchewan boundary is being remembered as a dedicated airman who served overseas and once helped escort Santa on a Christmas delivery

Capt. Thomas McQueen, 29, from the Hamilton, Ont., area, had been with the military for

a decade and was engaged to be married. He was a member of 401 squadron at 4 Wing Cold Lake in northeastern Alberta.

"I can tell you first-hand how much of an incredible person he was and that he was dedicated to the service of Canada," Col. Paul Doyle, commanding officer of the base, told reporters Tuesday. "He will be, and is, forever missed." THE CANADIAN PRESS



Capt. Thomas McQueen CANADIAN ARMED FORCES IMAGERY



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Soccer world mourns loss of Brazilian team

COLOMBIA

Black boxes recovered as tragedy cuts short fairy tale

Colombian authorities searched for answers Tuesday into the crash of a chartered airliner that slammed into the Andes mountains while transporting a Brazilian soccer team whose Cinderella story had won it a spot in the finals of one of South America's most prestigious regional tournaments. All but six of the 77 people on board were killed.

The British Aerospace 146 short-haul plane declared an emergency and lost radar contact just before 10 p.m. Monday, according to Colombia's aviation agency. It said the plane's black boxes had been recovered and were being analyzed.

Whatever the cause of the crash, the emotional pain of

Colombia's deadliest air tragedy in two decades was felt across the soccer world.

Expressions of grief poured in as South America's federation cancelled all scheduled matches in a show of solidarity, Real Madrid's squad interrupted its training for a minute of silence and Argentine legend Diego Maradona sent his condolences to the victims' families over Facebook.

Brazil's top teams offered to loan the small club players next season so they can rebuild following the sudden end to a fairytale season that saw Chapecoense reach the tournament final just two years after making it into the first division for the first time since the 1970s. "It is the minimum gesture of solidarity that is within our reach," the teams said in a statement.

Sportsmanship also prevailed, with Atletico Nacional asking that the championship title be given to its rival, whose upstart run had electrified soccer-crazed Brazil. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Fans of the Chapecoense soccer team mourn at the Arena in Chapeco, Brazil, on Tuesday. ANDRE PENNER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. ELECTION

Romney among latest visitors to Trump Tower

Reaching deep into conservative territory, President-elect Donald Trump chose Georgia Rep. Tom Price to oversee the nation's health-care system on Tuesday, picking a fierce "Obamacare" critic

who also has championed efforts to privatize Medicare. Trump selected another veteran Republican, Elaine Chao, to lead the Department of Transportation.

Both have long ties to Washington. Mitt Romney THE ASSOCIATED PRESS none bigger

Price, picked to lead the Department of Health and Human Services after more than a decade in Congress, helped craft House Speaker Paul Ryan's plan to privatize Medicare — a pos-ition Trump opposed in the campaign. Chao, who was the first Asian-American woman to serve in a president's Cabinet, is married to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

Trump announced his choice of Price, while the selection of Chao was confirmed by a person with knowledge of the decision but not authorized to speak publicly.

The selections came as Trump spent Tuesday with advisers in his Manhattan skyscraper, racing through meetings with prospective administration hires as highprofile vacancies loom -

than secretary of State. Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, on the shortlist for the nation's chief diplomat, was to have a private dinner with the incoming president.

Trump also met with former vice-president Dan Quayle, who is not a Cabinet candidate, among a half dozen visitors on the day.

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Thousands trapped, displaced in Aleppo

Renewed airstrikes killed at least 20 civilians as they fled government advances in Syria's besieged eastern part of Aleppo Tuesday, opposition groups reported as troops continued to target the enclave controlled by rebel groups. The United Nations said up to 16,000 people have already been displaced in recent days of fighting.

A senior military official in Damascus put the number of people fleeing the oppositioncontrolled area Tuesday alone at around 20,000, saying his government has put security

measures in place to vet those leaving to ensure no fighters are among them and no violence takes place.

The UN estimates that 275,000 residents are trapped in the area that has been under tight siege and heavy bombardment since July. Many residents and rights groups have expressed fear of revenge or retaliation attacks during the dramatic government advances that have cleaved the territory held by opposition fighters since 2012.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Families flee Aleppo on Tuesday, George Ourfalian/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Thailand has a new monarch

Thailand's parliament on Tuesday named Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn as king, completing a formal step following the death of his father last month.

The Cabinet submitted Vajiralongkorn's name to the National Assembly after a brief meeting, where he was formally acknowledged as the new monarch.

"I would like everyone to stand up and give their blessings to the new king," said National Assembly president Pornpetch Wichitcholchai.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn. SAKCHAI LALIT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



GMC CADILLAC

* See dealership for more information. \$18,999 purchase price + fees and taxes. Offer ends Nevember 30th



ITALY SEE YOU NEXT YEAR! Emma Morano blows out candles on her birthday cake in Verbania, Italy, on Tuesday. At 117 years of age, Morano is now the oldest person in the world and is believed to be the last surviving person who was born in the 1800s, born on Nov. 29, 1899. ANTONIO CALANNI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RECEPTIONIST/ SALES COORDINATOR PART TIME POSITION

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- Review and update health and safety policies; coordinate with JHSC
- · Responsible for maintaining accurate staff lists and directories
- · Answering telephones, call screening and forwarding
- · Deal with queries and complaints, by email, phone and in person
- Data input of ad bookings from sales reps
- · Completion of various reports daily, weekly, and monthly, pertaining to the sales team

REQUIREMENTS OF THE POSITION:

- · 2-3 years of demonstrated success in a similar role
- Great organizational and time management skills
- Outstanding communication skills
- Intermediate knowledge of Microsoft Office Word, Excel & Outlook
- · Attention to details and thoroughness in the execution of tasks
- Must be a team player with a great, and we mean great, sense of humor

Individuals interested and having the skills described are requested to submit their resume and cover letter on our career site at: https://careers-starmediagroup. icims.com/jobs/1075/receptionist-sales-coordinator/job no later than December 4, 2016. All submissions will be treated as confidential! Thank you for your interest in joining our Metro News Team!



Daesh hails Ohio State attacker

COLUMBUS

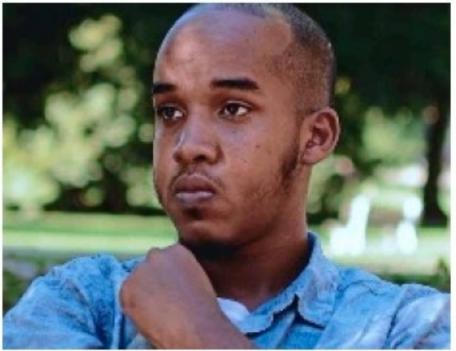
Somali-born student claimed by terror group as 'a soldier'

The Somali-born student who went on a car-and-knife rampage at Ohio State University railed on Facebook against U.S. interference in Muslim lands and warned, "If you want us Muslims to stop carrying lone wolf attacks, then make peace" with Daesh, a law-enforcement official said Tuesday.

The posts from Abdul Razak Ali Artan's account came to light after Monday's violence, which left 11 people injured. "America! Stop interfering with other countries, especially the Muslim Ummah. We are not weak. We are not weak, remember that," he wrote, using the Arabic term for the world's Muslim community.

He also warned that other Muslims are in sleeper cells, "waiting for a signal. I am warning you Oh America!"

Artan drove a car up onto a sidewalk and plowed into a group of pedestrians shortly before 10 a.m. He then got out and began



Abdul Razak Ali Artan was identified as the Ohio State student who was shot to death Monday after he ran his car into a crowd at Ohio State University. THELANTERN.COM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

stabbing people with a butcher knife before he was shot to death by a campus police officer.

On Tuesday, a Daesh news agency called Artan "a soldier of the Islamic State" who "carried out the operation in response to calls to target citizens of international coalition countries."

Daesh has previously described other attackers around the world as its "soldiers" without specifically claiming to have orchestrated the acts of violence.

Artan was born in Somalia and was a legal permanent U.S. resident, according to a U.S. official who was not authorized to discuss the case and spoke on condition of anonymity.

A law enforcement official said Artan came to the United States in 2014 as the child of a refugee. He had been living in Pakistan from 2007 to 2014.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Like 'walking through hell'

Wildfires fuelled by high winds roared through parts of the Great Smoky Mountains, chasing thousands of people from their homes.

National Guard troops arrived Tuesday to help overwhelmed firefighters, and Mother Nature provided a little relief as the winds calmed and rain fell in some areas. Forecasters said it would not be enough to end the relentless drought that has spread across the South and set the stage over the past few weeks for wildfires in Tennessee, Georgia and North Carolina.

Linda Monholland, who was working at Park View Inn in Gatlinburg, said it was about 9 p.m. Monday when she left her workplace with about five other

people. Surrounded by flames the whole way, they walked for about 20 minutes to a trolley to evacuate.

"There was fire everywhere. It was like we were in hell. Hell opened up," said Monholland. "Walking through hell, that's what it was. I can't believe it. I never want to see something like that again." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





MELIEWS

Your essential daily news

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

JESSICA ALLEN ON THE PITFALLS OF REBOOTS

It's good to be back in Stars Hollow, the fictional town the original Gilmore Girls was set in, but it's not quite the same.

I headed straight to the grocery store on Friday after work to pick up provisions for devouring the new Gilmore Girls miniseries on Netflix. Judging from the congestion in the baked goods aisle — and the lack of Pop Tarts — others had the same idea.

And judging from social media chatter and online think-pieces, there's near consensus: the four-episodelong A Year In the Life is a little like cold pizza. It is good, because it's pizza. Sometimes cold pizza even tastes better than hot pizza. But it's still...cold pizza.

In other words, it's good to be back in Stars Hollow, the fictional town the original series was set in, but it's not quite the same.

Although the title characters, Lorelai and Rory Gilmore, are still wearing their circa-2003 getups: flared jeans and knee-high boots with jersey wrap dresses finished off with cropped jean jackets. And they still wildly gesticulate while holding empty extra-large takeout coffee cups.

But complaining, a sport conducted around water coolers on Monday morning, is half the fun: Why did the show's creator, Amy Sherman-Palladino, let her husband and collaborator Daniel include that musical interlude? That was 10 valuable minutes that could've been spent on a shirtless Jess (one of Rory's love interests, played by Milo Ventimiglia), or on Rory's best friend Paris Geller, whose meltdown in her old private school's washroom is the funniest in the miniseries, or explaining what happened to all those wedding cakes that Lorelai's sidekick and colleague Sookie made.

These are observations from a novice. My partner Simon and I started watching the original series, which
aired from 2000 to 2007, just
two years ago. He'd convinced me to give Nymphomaniac, the four-and-a-halfhour sex apocalypse by the
premier poet of cinematic
doom Lars von Trier, a go.
He fell asleep 20 minutes
in. When he woke I was 10

same sense of comfort and security was provided by the Anne of Green Gables miniseries for me: And by the by, Jess is basically cribbing from Gilbert Blythe when he tells Rory that she really ought to write what she knows.)

Three young women at my office actually said they



THEN AND NOW Rory and Lorelai are their coffee-wielding, fast-talking selves, but the Gilmore Girls reboot on Netflix is missing some magic, Jessica Allen writes. Associated PRESS/NETFLIX

minutes into the pilot of Gilmore Girls. It was a long winter

I'm actually envious of the die-hard fans, including many who have seen the entire series six or seven times. They tend to be young women who watched the show with their parents when it aired. Their repeat visits to Stars Hollow, where not much goes wrong, are steeped in nostalgia. (That

Complaining, a sport conducted around water coolers on Monday morning, is half the fun. went to journalism school because Rory Gilmore did. Another said that whenever she re-watches now, the cultural references that were famously packed into the original series resonate more deeply.

The reboot is swimming in such references. There's pop — think Kardashians, Game of Thrones and Goop — and high brow films like the Coen Brothers' Inside Llewyn Davis, David Lynch's Eraserhead, and Paul Mazursky's An Unmarried Woman, which Kelly Bishop, who plays Gilmore matriarch Emily, was actually in back in 1978.

Speaking of the Gilmore grandmother, she's given the best story arc, the best wardrobe and the best lines. After Richard, her husband of 50 years, suddenly dies, she realizes her big house, the country club and the Daughters of the Revolution are all nonsense.

"I can't spend any more time on artifice and bulls—," she says. When she moves to Nantucket and buys a house the previous owners named "Clam Shack," she says, "I guess Vagina House was taken."

Coincidentally, Rory Gilmore reads Moby Dick, partially set in Nantucket, in the show's original pilot. Emily ends up volunteering as a guide at the whaling museum there.

Self-referential full circles are hammered home elsewhere. The pilot ended with an ultimatum: Emily and Richard promise to pay for Rory's private high school, only if she and Lorelai agree to come once a week for dinner.

It ends with another: Emily will pay for the expansion of Lorelai's inn only if she and Luke promise to visit Nantucket for two weeks every summer and a week at Christmas.

Even the last four words in the reboot are, in a sense, a continuation of the cycle, although it certainly isn't the ending that most of us expected.

Part of me wishes the creators ended things by squeezing in one more pop culture reference — a tip of the hat to the ambiguous finale of the greatest television show ever created (the Sopranos). Have Rory and Lorelai meet at Luke's Diner. The misfits of Stars Hollow file in. And just as a Journey, or maybe a Steely Dan song plays, they cut to black.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

VICKY MOCHAMA

If the CBC goes ad-free, it shouldn't be to bail out the rest of the media

It's rather odd for the barons of the printed press to blame the CBC for their difficulties. Despite several years of devastating cuts and losses, five senior executives at Postmedia received a total of \$2.3 million in retention bonuses.

For what they are being retained remains unclear. Yet they — and their equivalents at other major outlets — have the audacity to wander onto Parliament Hill begging for mercy.

Over the last few years, declining subscriptions, the Internet and lower advertising revenue have hit the nation's newspapers hard. They might soon only afford a small staff of interns to yell the news in your local town square.

The heads of the newspaper business have told Parliament's heritage committee that the CBC is to blame.

The CBC has made a number of changes, from running digital ads to launching an opinion section that has diversified the range of white people paid to have opinions.

Our public broadcaster behaved like a ruthless media company, which other media companies apparently did not realize was an option. These changes, they say, have hampered the ability of newspapers to sell advertising. It hasn't come up that the websites of many major newspapers look like a scanned pdf. And the existence of adblockers seems to have escaped their attention.

Up against this fingerpointing, the CBC has responded that they're only too happy to get out of the advertising game. For \$418 million, they'll go ad-free like their BBC counterparts. Not only is it a clever bit of ransoming, it's an excellent response to every criticism levelled at them.

Think the CBC should get out of the opinion game? Cut a cheque for \$20 million and no one there will ever use an "I feel" statement ever again.

Think the CBC's coverage of hockey and the Olympics is terrible? Drop \$88 million at their Toronto headquarters. In no time, it'll be "Ron McLean? Who? Haven't heard that name in years."

Think the broadcaster shouldn't even be on the Internet? Put out the collection plate for \$133 million, and soon we will have the world's most impressive publicly funded fax machine.

The numbers here are my guess, but I'm sure the CBC could offer up a more accurate price list. Hell, for a gold Starbucks card and two tickets to the musical Hamilton, they might get out of the news business altogether.

For an unwieldy bureaucracy, the CBC has managed to outfox the private companies. If their ad-free gamble works, they'll exit the diminishing returns of the advertising world with a solid financial base. And at a much lower \$400K salary, CBC president Hubert Lacroix got his multimillionaire nemeses to make his argument for him.



Sandy MacLeod
VICE PRESIDENT & EDITOR

Cathrin Bradbury

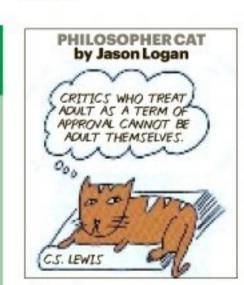
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Your essential daily news

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

ROLLING STONE

Evan Rachel Wood: 'I have been raped'

Evan Rachel Wood has revealed that she has been raped twice.

The revelation comes in a letter to Rolling Stone that Wood made public on Twitter on Monday. In the note, she writes, "Yes, I have been raped." She says she was assaulted once "by a significant other" she was together with at the time, and by a bar owner during a separate incident. She says she initially questioned herself over both incidents, which she says took place "many many years ago."

The Westworld actress posted the letter after the incidents were mentioned in a Rolling Stone profile of her published earlier this month.

Wood says in the letter that she believes being raped "was



Evan Rachel Wood GETTY IMAGES

one of the many factors" behind a suicide attempt when she was 22. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GOSSIP NEWS IN BRIEF

Dolly Parton heartbroken by wildfires in hometown-

Country music icon Dolly Parton says she's heartbroken about wildfires that tore through the Tennessee county where she grew up but spared the Dollywood theme park that bears her

In a statement released Tuesday by her publicists, Parton said she's been watching the "terrible fires" in the Great Smoky Mountains. At least 14,000 people have been forced to evacuate the tourist area of Gatlinburg, Tennessee, and a dozen people have been injured in the wildfires.

"I am praying for all the families affected by the fire and the firefighters who are working so hard to keep everyone safe," she said.

In a video released just hours before the wildfires engulfed Gatlinburg and areas around Pigeon Forge, Parton urged people to prevent forest fires.

Parton appears with Smokey Bear in the 30-second video released Sunday by Great Smoky Mountains National Park, She tells people to avoid burning leaves and parking vehicles on dry grass, and warns that even a campfire can spark a wildfire. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

A reflection of crime, slavery

THE SHOW: 13th (Netflix) THE MOMENT: Closing credits

The closing credits of this documentary, directed by Ava DuVernay (Selma), are accompanied by regular, everyday snapshots: mothers holding babies, fathers horsing around with toddlers, smiling children at birthday parties. Three women pose next to a giant sequoia; an older lady beams at the Grand Canyon. What is extraordinary is their ordinariness, because every person in them is black.



This doc is a calm, well-reasoned wail of anguish.

This doc is a calm, well-reasoned wail of anguish. Its title refers to the 13th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which abolished slavery but included the fateful phrase "except as punishment for a crime." DuVernay gives us a host of thinkers from Angela Davis to Newt Gingrich who make a strong case that a campaign of mistrust and abuse of African-Americans began immediately after abolition; that it persists in the criminal justice system; and that mass incarceration and programs such as Stop and Frisk have become socially acceptable substitutes for slavery and lynching.

The statistics are harrowing: in 1970, there were 358,000



Director Ava DuVernay gives us a host of thinkers who make a strong case that a campaign of mistrust and abuse of African-Americans began immediately after abolition. Political activist Van Jones is featured in the documentary. CONTRIBUTED

Americans in prison; in 2014, 2.3 million — a disproportionate number of them black. The images are worse: chain gangs, hanged bodies, unarmed young men shot dead in the streets.

DuVernay's subjects con-

tend that these images have power and must be shown. But she also knows they're hideously familiar. That's why the closing credit photos are such a brilliant stroke. In the U.S. circa now, the truly startling images

are those of happy black people living ordinary lives.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.



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POP-UP MARKET, NEPTUNE THEATRE SCOTIABANK STAGE

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LIQUID ASSETS PETER ROCKWELL



Sip on holiday spirits while you decorate

tion of apple cider liqueur with JD's Old No. 7 Tennessee whiskey. Drinking like a spicy punch, its flavours really kick into gear once you warm up a glass in the microwave.

Kahlúa's Peppermint Mocha (375ml, \$15.99-\$16.95) blends the classic Mexican coffee liqueur with a shot of cool mint, while Smirnoff's Peppermint Twist (\$22.99-\$27.49) takes liquid candy cane to the next level. Exhilarating drunk over ice, it makes a great base for a refreshing ho-ho-holiday martini. Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be avail-

able in all

prov-

inces.





Ricardo Larrivée

Torstar News Service

You may know them as appetizers or amuse-bouches - I know them as hors d'oeuvres, and they're one of my favourite things in the world. In the spirit of the giving season, I'm handing you the only recipe you'll need to ensure your holiday party starts off on an unforgettably tasty note. This hors d'oeuvre has deep-fried crunch, gooey cheese, salty pancetta and the fresh snap of sliced cu-

> cumber and green apple ... all in

> > a single

bite.

Prep



Unforgettably tasty hors d'oeuvres for the holidays

Deep-fried crunch, gooey cheese, salty pancetta and the fresh snap of sliced cucumber and apple, all in a single bite. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

luscious little snacks an hour before your guests arrive — they'll pop them back faster than you can make 'em!

Panko-Crusted Goat **Cheese with Cucumber** and Green Apple

Makes 16 hors d'oeuvres.

Ingredients:

- · 4 pancetta, thinly sliced
- 4 oz (115 g) fresh unripened goat cheese, at room temper-
- 1 tbsp fresh chives, chopped
- 1 pinch chili powder or Espelette pepper
- Canola oil, for frying
- · 1 cup (150 g) unbleached, allpurpose flour
- 2 eggs
- · 1 cup (60 g) panko bread

- 1 green apple, cored, cut into 1-inch (2.5 cm) long sticks and lightly drizzled with lemon juice
- 1 Lebanese cucumber, thinly sliced
- A few microgreens (optional)
- Salt and pepper

Directions:

- With rack in middle position, preheat oven to 425 F (220 C). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Place pancetta slices on baking sheet. Bake for about 10 minutes or until crisp. Let cool. Chop finely.
- 2. In a bowl, combine cheese, pancetta, chives and chili powder. Shape into 1-tbsp balls and flatten slightly. Set on a plate and refrigerate for 15 minutes.

F (180 C). Line a baking sheet with a double layer of paper towels.

- 4. Place flour in a shallow dish. Beat eggs in a second shallow dish and place panko in a third dish. Dredge cheese balls in the flour, then dip in beaten eggs. Shake to remove any excess. Repeat these two steps for each cheese hors d'oeuvre, then press in panko to thoroughly coat.
- Place a few hors d'oeuvres at a time in hot oil and fry for 2 to 3 minutes, turning them a few times, until golden brown. Drain on paper towels.
- 6. Place hors d'oeuvres on a serving platter. Garnish with a few slices of cucumber, juli-



If you haven't started

decorating for Christmas

by now, I'll bet every one

(which my family won't

let me put on the tree)

In my world some-

strings of lights is a ne-

cessity. This year many

mingled their familiar

flavours with seasonal

distillers have mixed-and-

enhancements for trendy

limited edition versions of

thing spirited to sip

while you untangle

together.

of my Star Trek ornaments

that this coming weekend

you'll be getting your act



Your classic chocolate chip cookie recipe

(plus two other sweet treats to see you through Christmas)

BAKING

Get set for the holidays with these recipes

Karon Liu

Torstar News Service

Chocolate Chip Cookie Makes about 30 cookies.

This foolproof recipe is adapted from user-generated recipe database Allrecipes.com and has been rated nearly 8,000 times with a 4.5 out of 5-star rating. It has never failed for me. Fun fact: I brought these to a dinner party for British Times restaurant critic Giles Coren and he gave the cookies a thumbs up.

Cookie tip: The temperature of the butter greatly affects the overall look and texture of a cookie. When the butter is mixed at room temperature (it makes a dent when you poke it), it yields a cakey texture. When the butter is melted, it makes for a chewier and flatter cookie.

Ingredients:

- 2 cups (500 mL) unsalted butter, room temperature
- 2 cups (500 mL) granulated sugar
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) molasses
- 2 large eggs
- 2 tsp (10 mL) vanilla extract
- . 1 tsp (5 mL) baking powder
- · 2 tsp (10 mL) hot water
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt
- 3 cups (750 mL) all-purpose flour
- 2 cups (500 mL) semi-sweet chocolate chips

Directions:

1. Prepare two baking sheets lined with parchment paper or

silicone baking mats. Set aside.

- 2. In a stand mixer with paddle attachment or a large bowl with a mixer, cream butter, sugar and molasses together on medium speed until smooth and fluffy. Turn speed down to low. Add eggs and vanilla. Continue to mix on medium-high speed until well incorporated and fluffy in texture.
- In a small bowl, dissolve baking powder in water. Add to bowl along with salt.
- 4. Slowly add flour and mix on low speed until just incorporated and there are no more streaks. Stir in chocolate chips. Do not over mix.
- Scoop about 1 1/2 tablespoons of dough and roll into a ball. Place on lined baking

FACTORY SERVICE

sheets, leaving about 1-inch between cookies. Repeat with remaining dough. Use back of spatula or palm to slightly flatten cookies.

- 6. Bake at 350F (175 C) for 15 to 20 minutes until slightly browned on edges but still a bit soft.
- 7. Let cool for 5 minutes before transferring to wire rack to cool completely. Repeat with remaining dough.
- Store in an airtight container for up to a week or freeze for up to a month.

Amaretti

Makes 36 cookies.

Amaretti is essentially a flourless Italian cookie, similar to a macaroon but made with almonds rather than coconut. It is crispy on the outside and soft and chewy inside and easy to make. No chilling, no rolling, no decorating. Just scoop dollops of almond paste on to the baking sheet.

This recipe is simplified from Allrecipes.com — I bought ground almonds rather than grinding the nuts.

Cookie tip: When baking with egg whites, stick to whole eggs rather than pre-separated stuff in the carton. Egg whites from actual eggs have a lower moisture content and will easily whip into meringue. Too much moisture and the batter will flatten out.

Ingredients:

- 2 cups (500 mL) ground almonds
- 1-1/2 cups (375 mL) granulated sugar
- 3 egg whites
- 1 tsp (5 mL) almond extract
- Icing sugar or unsweetened cocoa powder, for garnish

Directions:

- Prepare two baking sheets lined with parchment paper or silicone baking mats.
- In a bowl, mix ground almonds and sugar. Add egg whites and almond extract. Stir until a smooth, sticky dough forms.
- 3. Spoon heaping teaspoonsized balls on to lined baking sheets, leaving about an inch between each ball. Bake at 300F (150C) for 20 to 30 minutes until cookies are golden

brown and set.

4. Let cool for 5 minutes be

fore transferring to a wire rack to completely cool. Lightly dust with icing sugar or cocoa powder for garnish.

Store in an airtight container for up to 2 days or freeze for up to a month.

Cake Mix Cookies Makes about 24 cookies.

These cookies made from boxed cake mix (I used Betty Crocker's confetti cake mix) are perfect for people who don't cook.

Ingredients:

- · 1 box confetti cake mix
- · 2 large eggs
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) vegetable oil
- · Sprinkles, for garnish

Directions:

 Prepare two baking sheets lined with parchment paper or silicone baking mats. Set aside. In a stand mixer with paddle attachment or a large mixing bowl with a mixer, combine cake mix, eggs and oil until well-incorporated.

- 3. Drop tablespoon-sized balls of mix onto lined baking sheet. Add sprinkles on top. Bake at 350F (175C) on middle rack for 10 to 15 minutes or until edges brown. For fluffier more cakelike cookies, bake on top rack until they rise and brown, about 5 to 8 minutes, then move to bottom rack to complete baking.
- 4. Remove from heat and let cool on tray for 10 minutes before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.
- Store in an airtight container for up to a week or freeze for up to a month.



These easy Italian cookies require just four ingredients and don't need any rolling or chilling. ALL PHOTOS: TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Use boxed cake mix to make these moist cookies.



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*All tools are reconditioned or blemished and carry a manufacturer's warranty.

SWEWS IN

SHOPPING UNDER THE STARS

Reviving that old-fashioned holiday feeling

Shopping Under the Stars — the sequel — is hitting Spring Garden Road Thursday.

The first installment of this year's downtown shopping event on Nov. 17 was a big hit and organizers are hoping for more of the same this week.

"The first Shopping Under the Stars was a huge success, " said Rachel Brown with the Spring Garden Area Business Association. "We had close to 50 businesses participating with different promotions, specials and events during the evening. It was the perfect night to begin holiday shopping."

Some of the businesses hosted special events like yoga sessions and there was live music, hot chocolate and cookies too.

"We also couldn't have asked for better weather, it was a beautiful night," Brown said.

The forecast says it will be warm on Thurs-



day, with temperatures at around 7 degrees. It is also calling for periods of rain so it might be a good idea to pack an umbrella.

For Shopping Under the Stars, shoppers not only score deals but get to experience the old fashion feeling of a downtown Christmas. There are holiday lights, carolers, and visits from Santa. Many stores offer sweet treats for shoppers as they browse.

"Retailers are excited about the next one and feel that customers will be even further in the mindset to begin their holiday shopping," Brown said.

This year the shopping extravaganza was moved to Thursday nights to accommodate all the holiday parties and other commitments people have this time of year.

Many of the businesses are changing up their

Shopping Under the Stars turns 21

"Originally planned as an evening to celebrate the season and promote the start of holiday shopping, Shopping Under the Stars has grown into a two-night event leading up to Christmas," Brown said. "Wanting to set the Spring Garden area apart from the malls offering their tax free nights or midnight madness, these events allowed for businesses to bring the traditional feel back to the street with lights, carolers and visits from Santa Claus as he popped in and out of stores spreading holiday cheer."

promotions for the second installment, and some businesses who didn't participate in the first one are jumping on board for the second. Look out for contests, deals on gift cards, deals on dining, and product giveaways.

"At the first Shopping Under the Stars we launched our Spring Garden Holiday Elves," Brown said. "If you're in the area you might notice three elf photo boards. Take a picture and tag us on Twitter @SpringGardenRd."

-MAGGIE JENION



Strengthening ties on Spring Garden Road

Facing challenges is always better when people come together, and it's the same for the businesses in the Spring Garden Road area.

For over 30 years the Spring Garden
Business Area Association has been working on
behalf of the eclectic mix of retail, corporate and
professional businesses in the area. They now
have over 360 members.

"Our street and our businesses have been under pressure now for a number of years from power centres and suburban development which are competing for business," said Juanita Spencer, executive director. "As an association it's our job to help our members to not only attract businesses to the area and customers to their businesses but to thrive."

The association firmly believes the best way to keep the business district thriving is to come together. To that end they host morning monthly mixers. Several cross-promotional partnerships have arisen out of these events which is encouraging Spencer said. "That's a business helping business kind of thing."

There are also lunch and learn information sessions on topics like social media and work-place safety. These are especially important for small businesses who might not have access to it otherwise, Spencer said.

"Our members engage with our association and members engage with the street. It's a big area for us, strengthening those ties, and encouraging them to work together," she said.

The association also helps by making the area attractive to shoppers like hiring summer students to clean and offer directions to visitors. The association also advocates on issues like taxation, parking, and transit.

"We organize events like our very successful children's festival in Victoria Park in the summer as well as, of course, Shopping Under the Stars," Spencer said.

"We want to keep the area as connected as possible because we feel that's how we're going to keep it strong."





Changes in Spring Garden bring new energy to area

The Spring Garden area said hello to a bunch of new arrivals this year, and bid farewell to others.

Giant Bicycle, Saje Natural Wellness, Be Gorgeous Cosmetics, Smiling Goat, and the Juice Press are some of the new opens in the area. The Port by NSLC opened in the Mary Ann building on Clyde Street and the Stillwell Beer Garden opened in the empty lot near the corner of Spring Garden and South Park Street this summer.

They brought a new energy and experience to the Spring Garden area, said Jennifer Malec, operations and membership coordinator with the Spring Garden Area Business Association.

"There are several well-known stores that have been on the street for decades, but we also have a lot of turnover, relocations, and new stores opening every year," she said. "It makes for a very dynamic area that is constantly changing. Spring Garden now is very different from what it was 10 or even five years ago, just as Spring Garden five, 10 years from now will undoubtedly look very different

from the present."

Like other shopping districts, the Spring Garden area is seeing many small, independent retailers being replaced by large chain stores. This absolutely changes the dynamics on the street, Malec said.

"Despite all the changes, it remains a busy corridor and retains its unique identity," she

The Association recently sent out a survey to their members asking why they chose Spring Garden and Malec said they heard loud and clear that Spring Garden is the place to be. This has a lot to do with the heavy foot traffic, which is about 10,000 people a day, Malec added.

"Spring Garden itself is also well-known, there is a lot of history here and the name carries its own brand recognition," she said. "Spring Garden is a major thoroughfare for both residents and tourists. We're lucky to have both the Public Gardens and the beautiful new Halifax Central Library, both of which are major draws to the area."

MAGGIE JENION

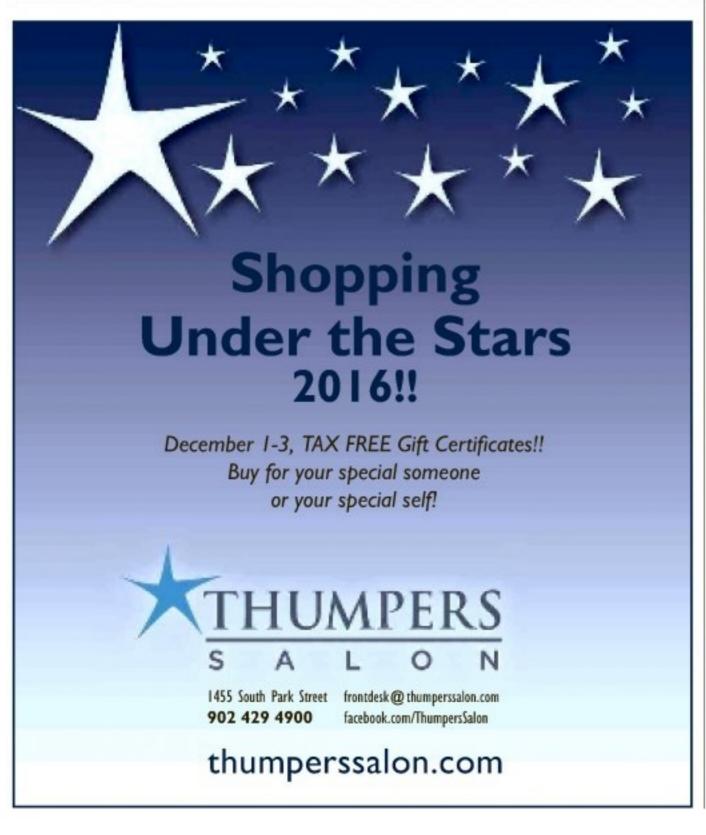


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Major development projects

Spring Garden is also home to a whole lot of new development. The Mary Ann building on Clyde Street was recently completed infusing the area with many more residents. Its sister site, the Margaretta, which hasn't started construction yet, will also add even more, Malec said.

"There are also major development projects in progress on the Doyle Street block, as well as the new development on South Park Street where the old CBC and YMCA buildings were located," she said.







Rediscovering the beauty of downtown Halifax

Beautification is coming in at a trickle on Spring Garden Road right now but in two years a major makeover is planned.

Coun. Waye Mason said council is planning a big streetscaping project in two years.

The sidewalk technically isn't wide enough for the number of people who are on it on a daily basis, he said, and that will need to be remedied. Mason said he also wants to look at setting up controls on when delivery trucks can use the street. He also wants to examine if cars need to be on the street 24-7. Some businesses are against closing the street to traffic, but Mason said he thinks if he can show how well it works in other cities he might convince them.

The main Spring Garden Road stretch was paved this summer for the first time in 15 years, more curb cuts were added to increase accessibility, and some electrical work was done. Light stands on Dresden and South Park were replaced and lights along Spring Garden Road were replaced with brighter LED lights.

"We want it to look like it is around the library all the way to South Park. So that is the vision to do that in about two years," he said.

The Spring Garden Area Business Association and city staff are now focused on keeping



CONTRIBUTED

the street clean, he said. New street cleaner vacuum machines help with that.

An ever changing landscape is the beauty of downtown Halifax, said Neville MacKay, owner of My Mother's Bloomers.

"We have to evolve with the times but hold

onto our heritage because I truly believe you have to remember where you came from in order to know where you're going," he said.

This is something downtown Halifax, for the most part, is doing very well, MacKay added.

Many retailers are changing to accommo-

date condo-dwellers — who don't like a lot of stuff but who want quality — and shorter-term residents, students or travelers, he said.

DOWNTOWN IS A VITAL AND IMPORTANT PLACE TO BE

Neville MacKay,
 owner of My Mother's Bloomers

"We're enjoying that rebirth of beauty, acceptance and awareness that downtown is a vital and important place to be. People are really coming back to enjoying that again."

Kurt Bulger, co-owner of Jennifer's of Nova Scotia, said if you're in retail, you have to be an optimist.

He said he's optimistic about streetscaping complimenting recent development projects which bring more people to live in the area.

Businesses don't vote, residents do, Bulger said. So he's optimistic as more people move downtown, the area's voice will be heard more at council.

- JEN TAPLIN





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GARY BRINTON PHOTOGRAPHY

If you love the magic of the holiday season, now is the time to drop by Spring Garden Place, festively dressed in stylish holiday décor, a "mustdo" when Shopping Under the Stars on Dec. 1.

Spring Garden Place is a unique mall-meetsboutique experience where shoppers will find 24 retailers offering a great variety of one-of-akind gifts and services. You'll find leading edge fashion, jewelry, including Nova Scotia's exclusive dealer for Rolex–Touch of Gold, luxurious spa treatments and downtown's best selection of dining options together in one location.

"Spring Garden Place has welcomed wonderful new additions such as Starbucks, Q & Q Home Style, Chic Faeries Clothing, Lan's Craft and Wow Hot Pot," said Rob Landry with Universal Realty Group which includes Spring Garden Place as part of its extensive management portfolio.

For every purchase made at Spring Garden

Place during Shopping Under the Stars, shoppers will receive a ballot for a chance to win a \$250 gift certificate for Spring Garden Place. This is a great way to get your holiday shopping done and perhaps treat yourself to a gift.

Ko Doraku, Pinehouse Chinese & Ranjsheha's Hot N' Spicy will be offering shoppers a taste of their signature menu items that have made them well-known favourites amongst Halifax foodies. Plus, the added convenience of free parking in the heated, covered lot between 5-10 p.m. is an added treat.

For those that want to add something a little grand to their plans, the Lord Nelson Hotel and Suites is a great choice for accommodation in downtown Halifax. The Lord Nelson is offering a special Shop and Stay Package which includes a \$25 shopping voucher for participating shops and services in the Spring Garden Road area. To reserve, visit lordnelsonhotel.ca/packages.php.



Your essential daily news

Mercedes-Maybach S650 Cabriolet Limited capped at

Shaking off the third fiddle role



THE CHECKLIST | 2017 AUDI A4

THE BASICS

Engine: 2.0-litre four-cylinder turbo

Power: 258 hp; 273 lb-ft of torque

Transmission: Sevenspeed dual-clutch automated manual

Curb Weight: 1,645 kg Fuel Economy (L/100 km): 9.8 city, 7.6 hwy, 8.6

combined Price: Starts at \$38,500



LOVEIT

 Headlights, taillights and grille stand out from the previous generation
• Android Auto/Apple CarPlay and a pair of USB ports
to which you can easily connect your phone rather than Audi's proprietary plugs of generations past. · Adaptive cruise control is top notch

LEAVEIT

 Doesn't blow the competition away with power (but still smooth and slick)

Latest A4 looks to climb the luxury sedan ladder



Jonathan Yarkony AutoGuide.com

While the automotive marketplace moves frantically toward crossovers of every size, shape and sporting intent, the sedan is not yet forgotten or ignored, especially in the luxury bracket.

For generations, the Audi A4 has played third fiddle to the BMW 3 Series and Mercedes C-Class, but the new 2017 A4 has a chance to change all that. We wanted to take an in-depth look beneath the barely changed skin to see if it has the goods to satisfy the growing legion of Audi faithful and capture the minds and hearts of other luxury shoppers.

We booked it for a long-term test that will span the fall and winter so that we could see Quattro all-wheel drive in its element, test it against some key competitors, and put it through the rigors of life to see how it fares when the initial shine wears off.

But first, let's cover the basics. For 2017, Audi completely redesigned the A4, though you'd be hard-pressed to tell at first glance, as it merely nipped and tucked the body, with only a few subtle tweaks like headlights, taillights and the grille that really stand out from the previous generation. While the looks are barely altered, they do yield a very impressive 0.27 coefficient of drag, aiding efficiency and reducing wind noise as the air slips over the body.

If you think the powertrain is just the same old 2.0T Quattro, well, it basically is, but with incremental changes that make a world of difference. With a configuration that was ahead of its time by a couple decades in this segment, Audi has had a huge head start developing and refining turbocharged fourcylinder powerplants.

This latest iteration doesn't necessarily blow the competition away with its power, but it's as smooth and slick as any fourcylinder turbo we can think of, as is the seven-speed dual clutch automatic. It's good enough to get to go from 0 to 100 km/h in six seconds flat, but it's the 273 lb-ft of torque available from 1,600 to 4,500 rpm that make it satisfying and rewarding in every situation.

Manual transmission fans will be pleased to know that you can choose to row your own in any A4 trim as a no-cost option. However, most owners will likely stick with the 'S tronic' dual clutch auto, which is how our test vehicle is equipped.

Those that are seeking greater efficiency in an A4 have a front-wheel drive option. The top efficiency option is the Ultra powertrain, a lighter tune of the new 2.0T making 190 hp and 236 lb-ft, which promises a thrifty 6.4 L/100 km highway, 8.7 in the city and 7.6 combined, respectively. This is also the most economical model in the lineup, starting at \$38,500 in Canada for the Komfort trim or \$42,300 for the Progressiv trim.

Tech from the BMW i8 is trickling down to regular cars



Sami Haj-Assaad AutoGuide.com

When it hit the market, the BMW i8 was lauded for its awesome looks and futuristic technology. A few years later, the i8's advanced powertrains and unique production methods have trickled down to regular cars in the BMW Group lineup.

That pattern describes exactly what a halo car should be: a car that sits on top of an automaker's lineup that shines a positive light

on all other cars in the family. A halo car represents the very best of what is offered from a brand. It should excite potential customers and give them a peek into what the future holds, with the thought that the things that make the halo car so special will end up in regular cars.

The i8's halo effect started in the 7 Series, where BMW applied the lessons it learned in making the i8's (and i3's) carbon fiber passenger cell to the large luxury sedan. At the time of its introduction, the latest generation 7 Series sported more carbon fiber

than in any mass-produced car to date. The creation of the i8 also contributed to the development of carbon fiber parts on M2, M3 and M4.

The i8's trickle-down effect is continuing with the hybrid propulsion in three cars: the 330e, the 740e xDrive, and the X5 xDrive40e. All models use a hybrid powertrain comprised of a turbocharged four-cylinder and an electric motor.

Speaking with Jose Guerrero, Product Manager for BMW i and BMW M, he explained that the main focus for BMW is to not let the new hybrid vehicles feel like something boring to drive.

To do that, they looked to the exhilarating BMW i8, a car that is commonly described as a blast to drive, despite its relatively low power numbers (357 hp). The fun-to-drive nature comes through an e-Boost feature that uses the electric motors to provide extra acceleration.

At the same time, the BMW hybrids cars are extremely fuel friendly and can be plugged in — they have an all-electric range of 23 kilometres on a single charge.



Carbon-fibre parts and hybrid powertrains are some of the gifts the i8 is lending to other models. COURTESY BMW

"Win a major and you're done. But if you win a major, you're going to want to come back": Tiger Woods ponders the best way to end a golf career

Salmond: Canucks need no motivation for juniors

HOCKEY

Poor result in 2016 has team fired up to win on home soil

Hockey Canada's Scott Salmond feels there will be no shortage of motivation for the Canadian players at the 2017 world junior hockey championship.

Canada didn't make it past the quarter-finals at the 2016 tournament in Helsinki, falling to eventual champion Finland. Salmond says that disappointing loss has players feeling like they have something to prove at the Dec. 26-Jan. 5 event in Montreal and Toronto.

"I think there was a level of embarrassment to the result last year," Salmond said Tuesday after the team's camp roster was announced. "I don't necessarily think to the performance, but to the result. I think there's some guys like Dylan Strome, who is very focused on coming back, making an impression and trying to redeem what happened last year.

"I think playing at home lends to that too."

Strome, an Arizona Coyotes prospect who plays for the OHL's Erie Otters, is one of five returning players who will compete for a spot on Canada's 22-

In all, Hockey Canada named



Canada was eliminated from the world juniors in the quarter-finals last year in Finland. MARKKU ULANDER/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

32 players — 19 forwards, 10 defencemen and three goalies to its selection camp roster Dec. 10-14 in Blainville, Que. Other returning players include Mathew Barzal (Seattle, WHL), Thomas Chabot (Saint John, QM- JHL), Julien Gauthier (Val-d'Or, QMJHL) and Mitchell Stephens (Saginaw, OHL).

Three games have been scheduled during the camp at Centre d'Excellence Sports Rousseau. The U Sport All-Stars will pro-

I think there was a level of embarrassment to the result last year. I don't necessarily think to the performance, but to the

vide the opposition on Dec. 12 and 13 before a matchup against the Czech Republic on Dec. 14.

Canada is in Group B at this year's tournament with the United States, Russia, Slovakia and Latvia. Group A includes the Czech Republic, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Switzerland.

"I think you temper expectations based on the fact that there's been seven different winners in seven years and those seven teams didn't medal the

year before," Salmond said. "What that tells me is there's parity. It's very, very difficult to win. For me, I always thought

there was four or five teams (but) there's probably seven teams that could win this thing. "So that's a challenge. I think

the fact that we don't have all of our best players, if you will, we're missing a number of players in the National Hockey League, tempers expectations. But at the same time, whenever we get 22 Canadians together with that Canadian jersey, I like our chances."

Edmonton Oilers star Connor McDavid anchored the Canadian team that won gold at the 2015 tournament co-hosted by Toronto and Montreal.

He and a bumper crop of teenage stars are not expected to play as they're entrenched with their NHL clubs. That list includes players like Winnipeg Jets forward Patrik Laine (Finland), Calgary Flames forward Matthew Tkachuk (U.S.) and Maple Leafs forwards Auston Matthews (U.S.) and Mitch Marner (Canada).

"It doesn't look good for Connor McDavid," Salmond said with a smile. "I don't think we're going to get him."

Canada will open the preliminary round against Russia on Boxing Day at Toronto's Air Canada Centre. Quarterfinal play begins Jan. 2 and the medal games are set for Jan. 5 at Montreal's Bell Centre. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Carey and co. eyeing Olympics

Chelsea Carey and her Calgarybased team had several hurdles to clear last season en route to a national curling title.

It took some time for Carey and her new teammates to adjust to the lineup change after previ-

ous skip Heather Nedohin stepped away. Funding and support was lost, a rankings drop followed, and the team was forced to post key victories Chelsea in order to qualify Carey for top events. "I think we press



THE CANADIAN

overcame a lot of things last year to get to where we got to," Carey said. "That's an empowering feeling and certainly brings you together as a team."

Carey skipped Alberta to a 7-6 win over Northern Ontario's Krista McCarville in the final at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts in Grande Prairie, Alta. Now Team Carey is hoping to build on that solid season with an eye on next year's Olympic Trials.

Carey and teammates Amy Nixon, Jocelyn Peterman and Laine Peters can lock up a berth at the Tim Hortons Roar of the Rings with a victory at this week's Canada Cup in Brandon, Man. The seven-team women's field also includes Olympic champion Jennifer Jones of Winnipeg, Ottawa's Rachel Homan, Winnipeg's Kerri Einarson, Edmonton's Val Sweeting, Tracy Fleury of Sudbury, Ont., and Edmonton's Kelsey Rocque. THE CANADIAN PRESS

RG3 relieved after getting the all-clear

Robert Griffin III

Robert Griffin III has been cleared Cincinnati. Griffin hasn't played by doctors to play again this sea- since the season opener - his son. RG3 still needs Browns

coach Hue Jackson's blessing. Griffin passed a final medical test on his injured left shoul-

der and can now take full contact, paving the way for the quarterback to play on Dec. 11 when the winless Browns return from a bye week against

debut for Cleveland — when he broke a bone in Beyond blessed to his shoulder while scramhave a chance to get bling in the back on the field. fourth quarter of a loss to the

> Philadelphia Eagles. "I promise my teammates and coaches to give them everything," Griffin said Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



result. Hockey Canada's Scott Salmond

IN BRIEF

Investigation into sexual abuse in British soccer

British police investigating sexual abuse in soccer have received calls from 250 people, the government announced Tuesday, as FIFA said the scandal could lead to offences by youth coaches being exposed worldwide.

Chelsea also opened an investigation into an employee from the 1970s who is now dead, while the English Football Association acknowledged it was braced for compensation claims. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brewers sign first baseman Thames to 3-year \$16M deal

Free agent Eric Thames agreed Tuesday to a \$16 million, three-year contract with the Milwaukee Brewers, who cut first baseman Chris Carter after a 41-homer season that tied for the National League lead.

A 30-year-old first baseman and outfielder who spent the last three seasons with the NC Dinos in South Korea, Milwaukee has a \$7.5 million option for 2020 with a \$1 million buyout. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadians on MAC Hermann shortlist

Canadian internationals Kadeisha Buchanan and Ashley Lawrence are among the 15 semifinalists for the 2016 MAC Hermann Trophy.

University of Vermont forward Brian Wright of Ajax, Ont., is one of 15 men's semifinalists. The awards, voted on by NCAA Division I soccer coaches, go to the top men's and women's players in NCAA soccer. Three men's and three women's finalists will be named Dec. 14. The winners

will be announced Jan. 6 at the Missouri Athletic Club in St. Louis. Buchanan, a centre back from Brampton, Ont., was a finalist for the 2015 award. Lawrence, a fullback-midfielder also from Brampton, was a semifinalist last year.

Both players have helped West Virginia to the College Cup, which opens Friday in San Jose. Wright has 14 goals and 12 assists in 22 games for Vermont this season.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rodgers leads Pack to crucial victory

Green Bay's playoff hopes still slim after topping Eagles

Aaron Rodgers threw perfect passes, ran for key first downs and did all his talking on the

Nobody will question his leadership this week.

Rodgers had 313 yards passing and tossed two touchdown passes to Davante Adams to help the Green Bay Packers snap a four-game losing streak with a 27-13 win over the day night.

The two-time NFL MVP openly criticized his teammates while the losses piled up, causing people to point the finger back at him for the way he handled it. But Packers coach Mike McCarthy praised his quarterback's approach.

"His positive attitude has been consistent through all this time," McCarthy said. "He's grown as a quarterback since the start of 2008, and grown as a person all the way through. He's an excellent leader, always has been."

Rodgers hasn't had a losing record since his first season as the starter replacing Brett

Philadelphia Eagles on Mon- Favre. He's led the Packers to seven straight playoff appearances and a Super Bowl title. But the team's recent struggles and some of Rodgers' comments made him a target for criticism.

> "It's been a rough stretch," Rodgers said.

> "We're human, so you lose a few in a row and doubt starts to creep in whether or not you can actually finish one of those games off. So for us to finish it off the way we did on offence the last two drives, defensively to come up with a stop, and to finish out the game with a couple of sacks was great for our confidence."

Green Bay (5-6) wasn't losing

because of Rodgers or the offence. The defence allowed at least 30 points in each of the four previous games and 89 in the past two. Injuries on both sides of the ball didn't help the

Rodgers made sure the Packers started fast, leading them to touchdown drives on the first two possessions. They took hostile crowd out of the game early and became the first team to win in Philadelphia (5-6) this season.

The victory kept Green Bay's sinking playoff hopes alive but the Packers are still two games behind the Lions (7-4) in the NFC North.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Aaron Rodgers silenced the Philly crowd early. ELSA/GETTY IMAGES

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12. Dwelling

13. Uh-huhs

2 wds.

21. Yanni's music:

30. Image file type

22. Mr. Asner's

27. Ventilate

29. Deduce

MAKE IT TONIGHT —

Easy One-Pot Chicken Cacciatore



Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh For Metro Canada

Is there anything that brings mouths to the kitchen quicker than the smell of a stew?

Ready in 30 minutes

Prep time: 10 minutes Cook time: 20 minutes Serves 4

Ingredients

- · 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- Salt and pepper
- 1 lb mushrooms, cleaned, trimmed and sliced
- · 3 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 Tbsp rosemary, minced
- 1 x 19 oz canned whole tomatoes 1 x 15 oz canned cannellini beans, rinsed and drained
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions

1. Pour oil into a large Dutch

oven or pot over medium heat. Slice the chicken thighs into about four pieces each and season them with a good pinch of salt and pepper. Working in batches, brown the meat. Don't worry about cooking it through. When the meat is brown, set it aside on a clean plate, drain off all but 2 Tbsp of fat.

2. Reduce heat slightly and toss in mushrooms. Once they've cooked down, about three minutes, add the garlic and rosemary and sauté for another minute.

3. Now add your tomatoes and beans. Use the back of a wooden spoon to break up the tomatoes. Add the cooked chicken pieces and allow everything to simmer for about 15 or 20 minutes. Taste to check seasoning and add salt and pepper to taste.

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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS 1. "_ the Knife" 5. Fiercely criticize 11. Bashful 14. Get __ deal 15. The Grand _ 16. The Raven's writer 17. Village People hit 18. __long pause (When the sentence was continued, perhaps) 19. Gremlin 20. Where crews work in theatre: 3 wds. 23. Wide shoe width 24. That, in Tijuana 25. Flight-leaving info 26. Cornfield call 28. Virtually, in verse 31. Swindle 35. Sister of Moses 38. Vardalos and Peeples 40. Sherbrooke 'street' 41. As a home outfitted with upgrades to keep heat in and drafts out: 2 wds. 44. Mailing request [acronym] 45. Existence 46. Go around 47. Cross of ancient Egypt 49. Contract condition 51. No longer working [abbr.] 52. Whiz 54, 'Hect' ender 56. 'Lobby' suffix 59. St. Lawrence... How

Jacques Cartier spent

his early time in the

New World: 3 wds.

14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 28 27 28 30 32 39 40 38 37 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 50 52 53 57 55 60 64 50 61 63 65 66 67 68 69 70 72 73

65. UK honour [acronym] 66. Denzel Washington football movie, "Remember the " (2000) 67. Dame _ Te Kanawa (New Zealand opera star) 68. Rocky hill

69. Form a group to tackle a project: 2 wds. 70. "Let ___" by Luba 71. Prefix to 'Clean' (Infomercial product) 72. Take to be true 73. Nice 'n Easy products

DOWN

1. "We'll see." 2. Military force, in French 3. Situated in British Columbia's Gold Country, this tourist village is northwest of Kamloops: 2 wds.

4, "The Bridge on the

River _* (1957) 5. Bunches 6. 1970s-style tunic 7. Li'l literary collection 8. Chinook salmon 9. Mane's materi-

32 Michelangelo's gift 33. Jane, to Bridget Fonda 34. Apportion 35. Geological flattop 36. ___instant 37. CBC's "Murdoch_" 39. Sporty pointsgetter 42. Compass point 43. 'Favour' finisher 48. Mr. Holbrook 50. "_, P.I." 53. Terra 55. Rudolf Erich __ (18thcentury writer of Baron Munchausen tales) 57. The Red _ (RCMP dress uniform) 58. Three-membered groups 59. 'External'-meaning prefix 60. Gaming console name 61. Roz's portrayer on "Frasier" 62. "Take ___a blessing." 63. "__, the Killer Whale" (1966) 64. "__ you not!" (Seriously!)

* IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20 Be careful about endorsing political and religious ideas today, because you might be confused. Perhaps someone who is talking too fast is trying to confuse you? It could be anything.

Taurus April 21 - May 21 This is a poor day for important discussions about inheritances or how to divide or share something. You will find it difficult to stand up for your rights. Postpone this discussion.

Gemini May 22 - June 21 Relations with partners and close friends are bit fuzzy today. People are not sure who is responsible for what, or where their exact boundaries are.

Cancer June 22 - July 23 You might feel tired at work today. This is why you should not take on more than you can handle. Don't push yourself. Be reasonable

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23 Romance might be disappointing today, probably because you had unrealistic expectations. Perhaps you misunderstood what was really going on. Parents should be vigilant about their kids.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23 During a family discussion today, you will have a tough time standing up for your rights because you feel like a second-class citizen. Don't worry - you are not second-class. This is just the feeling you have today.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23 Discussions are confusing today. In addition to this, you might spend a lot of time daydreaming. Oh well.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22 This is a poor day for making important decisions regarding finances and cash flow, because you are a bit confused. Assume nothing. Postpone important decisions that affect your assets...

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21 You feel sympathetic to others today. However, you also feel a bit helpless about your ability to help someone. It's frustrating.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20 Your concern for those who are less fortunate than you is genuine today. Nevertheless, you are not sure what to do. It happens.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19 Someone in a group situation (or possibly a friend) might sweettalk you into something you don't really believe. If you think something fishy is going on, it is!

) Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20 Confusion with bosses and parents is likely today. Be clear in all your communication so as to avoid misunderstandings. Clarify instructions if someone asks you to do something. Assume nothing.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

al: 2 wds.

11, Whirl

10. Legislate

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